

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8939

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, ML, UV

SUBJ: BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF DECLARATION MADE BY
PRESIDENT LAMIZANA LAST NIGHT WHICH WAS BROADCAST OVER
RADIO AND PUBLISHED IN LOCAL PAPER.

2. QUTE: CONTRARY TO WHAT WE EXPECTED, THE BORDER
RPROBLEM BETWEEN MALI AND OUR COUNTRY HAS TAKEN
DRAMATIC PROPORTIONS SINCE DECEMBER 14. THE CONFLICT
HAS LASTED THIRTEEN YEARS. UPPER VOLTA PARTICIPATED
IN 10 MEETINGS WITH MALI FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE OAU CHARTER AND IN ORDER TO MAIN-
TAIN PEACE BETWEEN AFRICAN STATES, WHILE AT SAME TIME
HELPING PROGRESS AND DEVELOPING THE COOPERATION NEEDED
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AFRICAN UNITY.

IN THIS SPIRIT, SEVERAL INSTANCES OF GOOD WILL

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HAVE MANIFESTED THEMSELVES TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

THUS, THE OAU PRESIDENT HAS ASKED PRESIDENT EYADEMA OF TOGO AND BOUNEDIENNE OF ALGERIA TO UNDERTAKE A MISSION OF MEDIATION AT LOME.

UPPER VOLTA WILL THEREFORE GOT TO LOME. BUT WHY LOME AFTER FARANAMA? I KNOW THAT THIS QUESTION, DEAR COMPATRIOTS, IS ON YOUR KOPS TONIGHT.

AN OFFER OF MEDIATION CANNOT BE TURNED DOWN, ESPECIALLY WHEN ONE IS IN ITS RIGHT, AS IS THE CASE FOR OUR COUNTRY. UPPER VOLTA WILL, THEREFORE, GO TO LOME. WE WILL THEREBY CONFIRM ANEW OUR AVAILABILITY AND GOOD WILL IN THE SEARCH FOR A FINAL SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT. UPPER VOLTA GOES TO LOME IN SPITE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION AND IN SPITE OF THE MEANS USED BY THE MALIAN SIDE TO HIDE THE TRUTH.

THE AUTHORITIES IN BAMAKO ARE ACCUSING US OF GENOCIDE AGAINST THE MALIAN COLONY IN UPPER VOLTA. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO APPEAL TO INTERNATIONAL OPINION IN ORDER TO COVER THEMSELVES FOR THE BRUTALITY TO WHICH OUR COMPATRIOTS IN MALI ARE SUBJECTED BY THE POLICE.

THE MALIAN AUTHORITIES OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT INTERNATIONAL OPINION IS WELL PLACED TO APPRECIATE THE MALICIOUS NATURE OF SUCH ACCUSATIONS, FOR IT IS WELL KNOWN WHAT TYPE OF HOSPITALITY WE GAVE OUR MALIAN BROTHERS WHO TOOK REFUGE IN THE VOLTAN SAHEL DURING THE WORST PERIOD OF THE DROUGHT.

WE HAVE CONTINUED TO HELP THESE REFUGEES AS WE DID OUR OWN PEOPLE AND THE MALIAN LEADERS KNOW VERY WELL THAT OUR CONVOY, WHICH WAS ATTACKED ON DECEMBER 14 AT GASSEGALO, 14 KMS INSIDE VOLTAN TERRITORY, WAS CARRYING FOOD FOR THE POPULATION IN NEED.

WE REAFFIRM THAT, IN THIS TRAGIC SITUATION, WE VOLTANS RESPECT OUR TRADITIONS OF HOSPITALITY AND FRATERNITY.

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UPPER VOLTA IS A HOSPITABLE LAND. THOSE WHO LIVE AMONG US, WHEREVER THEY ARE FROM AFRICA OR ELSEWHERE, CAN LIVE WITHOUT FEAR PROVIDED THEY DO NOTHING AGAINST THE SECURITY OF UPPER VOLTA.

UPPER VOLTA WILL, THEREFORE, GO TO LOME. IT IS FOR HER ANOTHER OCCASION TO PROVE TO AFRICAN OPINION

THE JUSTICE OF ITS CAUSE.

UPPER VOLTA GOES TO LOME. WE ARE READY TO GO BEFORE ANY OTHER FORUM. BUT, WHEREVER WE GO, DEAR COMPATRIOTS, WE WILL GO WITH THE FIRM DETERMINATION NOT TO CEDE ONE INCH OF THE TERRITORY WHICH WE INHERITED FROM THE COLONIAL POWER. UNQUOTE.GRAHAM

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